

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USLO PEKING

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SUBJ: CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: BUCHAREST 1440

SUMMARY: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO JAPAN
WENT SMOOTHLY AND TO THE APPARENT SATISFACTION OF BOTH
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SIDES. THOUGH THE TANGIBLE RESULTS AMOUNTED TO FAR LESS

THAN THE ROMANIANS HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED, THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AND THE \$80 MILLION EX-IM LOAN NEGOTIATED REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF GROWING JAPANESE INTEREST IN EASTERN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO FONOFF SECOND EAST EUROPEAN DIVISION DIRECTOR FURUKAWA, PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND HIS PARTY LEFT FOR PHILIPPINES APRIL 9 SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF HIS SIX-DAY STATE VISIT. JAPANESE WERE PLEASED, TOO, VISIT HAD GONE SMOOTHLY. ROMANIAN PRESIDENT, CONTRARY TO SOME PRIOR APPREHENSIONS ON JAPANESE PART, HAD ARRIVED AT ALL HIS APPOINTMENTS ON TIME AND SUITABLY ATTIRE (HE WAS RUMORED TO HAVE REFUSED INITIALLY TO WEAR FORMAL CLOTHES FOR EMPEROR'S BANQUET). CEAUSESCU IMPRESSED HIS HOSTS WITH HIS AIR OF ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY (FURUKAWA HAD RARELY SEEN A MORE NERVOUS GROUP OF AIDES), AND MADAME CEAUSESCU HAD BEEN CHARMING.

2. ATMOSPHERICS ASIDE, THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION LEFT TOKYO WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THEY HAD HOPED TO GAIN. INSTEAD OF A LARGE SOFT-TERM INTERGOVERNMENTAL LOAN, THE ROMANIANS SETTLED FOR AN \$80 MILLION EX-IM BANK LOAN AT 7.5 PERCENT INTEREST, PAYABLE OVER EIGHT AND ONE HALF YEARS AFTER SHIPMENT. AGREEMENT FOR THE LOAN, WHICH REPRESENTS BUYERS CREDITS FOR THE COSTANZA PORT PROJECT, WAS REACHED AT MIDNIGHT ON THE EVE OF DEPARTURE, REQUIRING CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL APPROVAL AFTER JAPAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE OFFER WAS ON A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS. THE JAPANESE MAINTAINED THAT AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY, ROMANIA WAS NOT A SUITABLE RECIPIENT FOR A SOFT-TERM INTERGOVERNMENTAL LOAN. ACCORDING TO FONOFF EC BUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR KIKUCHI, JAPAN WAS ANXIOUS THAT THE INTEREST RATE NOT BE LESS THAN MINIMUM IT HAS PROPOSED IN DISCUSSION AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT ON CREDIT.

3. THE ROMANIANS HAD PRESSED FOR SIGNATURE OF A SOLEMN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. INSTEAD, THE MEETING PRODUCED A CANNED COMMUNIQUE WHICH HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE CEAUSESCU SET FOOT IN JAPAN. DURING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT, NOT A WORD WAS CHANGED IN THIS BALANCED COLLECTION OF UNEXCEPTIONABLE REFERENCES TO MILESTONE DOCUMENTS LIKE THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS AND UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 332.

4. THE VISIT ALSO PRODUCED AGREEMENTS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, VISA FACILITATION, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. ADDITIONAL ROMANIAN HOPES

FOR A CIVIL PACT AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AGREEMENT WENT UNREALIZED.

5. ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE TAKE SOME SATISFACTION IN THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WERE ABLE TO CURB THE ROMANIAN
APPETITE, THEY ARE QUICK TO UNDERLINE THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF CEAUSESCU'S TRIP. THE FONOFF FEELS THE VISIT CONVINC-
ED A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL FIGURES IN JAPAN WHO
HARDLY KNEW WHERE ROMANIA WAS BEFORE THAT EASTERN
EUROPE IS AN IMPORTANT AREA WHERE AN EXPANSION OF JAPAN-
ESE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL.
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST JAPAN
HAS SIGNED WITH AN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY (JAPAN HAS
ONE WITH USSR) AND THE EX-IM LOAN IS THE LARGEST PLACED
IN THE AREA.
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